

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 114511  
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DRAFTED BY EA/K STAFF:FLW  
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH  
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R 042350Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY POUCH  
XMT AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY --

S E C R E T STATE 114511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PINS, MILI, MASS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. GLEYSTEN, ACTING

FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH, JR.

### 1. ROK NAVY SINKS NORTH KOREAN AGENT BOAT (CONFIDENTIAL)

IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 28, A TEN-MAN NORTH KOREAN AGENT TEAM LANDED IN SOUTH KOREA ABOUT 80 MILES WEST SOUTHWEST OF PUSAN. ONE OF THE TEAM MEMBERS WAS A SOUTH KOREAN SCHOOLTEACHER, WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN TO NORTH KOREA BY NORTH KOREAN AGENTS ON APRIL 2. THE TEACHER WAS ABLE TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE TEAM AND TURNED HIMSELF INTO KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER COMING ASHORE. NOTIFIED BY THE POLICE, THE ROK NAVY AND AIR FORCE BEGAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 114511

A SEARCH FOR THE AGENTS. AT 9:20 A.M., TWO NAVY HIGH-SPEED PATROL BOATS SIGHTED THE AGENT BOAT UNDERWAY ABOUT 20 MILES SOUTH OF THE LANDING SITE. IN THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE WHICH FOLLOWED, THE AGENT BOAT WAS SUNK. TWO BODIES WERE RECOVERED FROM THE WRECKAGE. ROK NAVY CASUALTIES WERE TWO KILLED AND TWO SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. SOUTH KOREAN

MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES ARE CONTINUING TO SEARCH FOR THE MOTHER SHIP OF THE LANDING CRAFT AND FOR AGENTS WHO MAY STILL BE AT LARGE.

2. DEFENSE INDUSTRY TECHNOLOGY (SECRET)

PRELIMINARY DECISIONS REACHED AT THE STAFF LEVEL MAY 3 WILL, IF OFFICIALLY RATIFIED, ALLOW US TO BE VERY FORTHCOMING IN OUR ASSISTANCE TO ROK DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. DOD AND STATE WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS AGREED THAT CERTAIN PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE 90 MM TUNGSTEN ROUND AND THE ALL WEATHER VULCAN RADAR, CAN PROCEED IMMEDIATELY. FURTHER, IT WAS AGREED TO RECOMMEND A REQUEST FOR PD 13 EXCEPTIONS ON SEVERAL MISSILE RELATED PROJECTS, INCLUDING LASER GUIDED HONEST JOHN MISSILES WITH ICM AND THE FLATBAT SHIP-TO-SHIP MISSILE.

3. ROKG IMPLEMENTS MAJOR FIVE-YEAR IMPORT LIBERALIZATION PROGRAM (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION ON MAY 1 OF A PHASED IMPORT LIBERALIZATION PLAN, 1978-1982, THE ROKG HAS AT LEAST SIGNALLED ITS INTENT TO AVOID PROTECTIONIST MISTAKES AND MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF AN EVENTUAL OPEN TRADING SYSTEM. CLEARLY NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN SALES TO KOREA ARE OPEN, BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT IMPORTS WILL  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 114511

SHOW MARKED INCREASES IN THE FIRST YEARS OF THE PROGRAM. TAKING THE CAUTIOUS VIEW, EMBASSY SEOUL NOTES THAT THE EMPHASIS APPEARS TO BE ON LIBERALIZING NEEDED RAW MATERIALS, WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED EXPORTS.

4. MUNITIONS CONTROL DECISIONS (CONFIDENTIAL)

UNDERSECRETARY BENSON HAS SENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR DECISION TWO MUNITION CONTROL CASES INVOLVING KOREA: SUBMACHINE GUNS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PROTECTION FORCE AND PISTOLS FOR THE KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE. BEST GUESS IS THAT THE FORMER WILL BE APPROVED AND THE LATTER DENIED.

5. KOREAN NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISITS (UNCLASSIFIED)

STUDENTS FROM THE ROK NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE ARE VISITING WASHINGTON THIS WEEK AFTER A STOP IN CANADA. AS IN THE AMERICAN MODEL, SOME CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE IN THE CLASS -- IN THIS CASE INCLUDING ONE MAYOR AND ONE PROSECUTOR. CHRISTOPHER

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**TAGS:** ETRD, PINS, MILI, MASS  
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